

THE ALMA RECORD

VOL. XLIV.—No. 4

\$1.50 the Year—5c the Copy

ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1922

TEN PAGES

WHOLE NUMBER 2249

CITY GIVEN \$26,000 DAMAGES AGAINST PURCELL

PROPOSED BUDGET OF 1922-23 GIVEN THE COMMISSION SHOWS A DECREASE OVER PAST YEAR

SEVERAL NEW ACTIVITIES ARE
PLANNED THAT PROPOSED
BUDGET PROVIDES FOR.

Reynolds Estimates City Needs \$121,000

The annual budget for the city of Alma will probably provide for around \$120,000 when it is passed by the city commission in May. The tentative budget submitted to the commission Tuesday evening by William E. Reynolds, city manager, calls for \$121,000 for the coming year, but there are indications that the commission may find a way to pare \$1,000 from this amount.

This provides a budget far less than the one of a year ago, which called for \$156,388.43. The budget a year ago carried an item of \$35,888.43 for paving work, which will be missing this year. With this amount left out of the budget of a year ago the tentative program for the coming year will show a saving over the budget of last year as a number of new activities are included in the proposed budget for 1922-23.

The tentative program calls for an increase of \$2,280 for the library, a capital outlay for the waterworks of \$6,800, which was not called for last year, and an additional outlay for street maintenance of \$3,000 for improvement work on East Superior, Ely and other streets. It also contains an item of \$3,000 for the providing of a tourists park for the city. An item that was missing from last year's budget because there was no election this spring, is the sum of \$1,200 for the election next spring. With the assuming of a number of new activities the money for which is included in the proposed budget shows that the other city funds for the coming year will be using far less money than was the case this past year.

There is of course no indication of what the tax rate per thousand of valuation will be this coming year at this time. Until the assessments have been made and the valuations ascertained, it will be impossible to give a fair approximate tax rate. There is every indication that there will be a big slice in valuation this year and this will mean a proportionate increase in the tax rate. There is every expectation, however, that the tax rate will be much less than a year ago when it was \$11.35. The probabilities are that the rate this year will be considerably under \$11.00. How much under this amount the rate will be will depend upon the decrease in valuations.

It is understood that an informal meeting of the city commission will be held this evening, at which time salaries and other matters will be gone into and it is possibly that a slight amount may be lopped from the proposed budget, bringing it down to \$120,000, if it can be done consistently.

U. B. Woman's Missionary Ass'n

The third annual session of the North Michigan Branch of the Woman's Missionary Association of the United Brethren Church will be held at Jackson Street Church, May 2 to 4.

On Tuesday evening a short song service and devotion will be held, and will be followed by the annual sermon by Rev. Ludwick.

Wednesday sessions will be held at 9:00 a. m., 1:30 p. m. and in the evening. In the evening a missionary pageant composed by Miss Alberta Bowman, daughter of Rev. Bowman, and a graduate of Alma High School, will be given.

Interesting meetings are also to be held Thursday morning, afternoon and evening, which promise to be very interesting.

FREE LECTURE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist of Alma Michigan announces a Free Lecture on Christian Science by Dr. John M. Tutt, C. S. B. of Kansas City, Missouri, member of the Board of Lectureship of the Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Mass.

In the Odd Fellows Temple, South State street, Sunday afternoon, May 7th at three o'clock. The public is cordially invited.

SEEK LOT ASSESSMENTS

With the season here when the Cemetery Board starts work to beautify and keep the cemetery clean for the summer months, making it one of the most attractive burial spots in this part of the state, the Board is asking that all lot owners immediately pay the \$1.50 assessment against their lots, which provides the fund for caring for the individual lots during the summer months, mowing the grass, watering etc. Much work needs to be done before Memorial day, and the Board hopes that all lot owners may pay the assessment before that date so that every lot may be in good shape for that time. Payment should be made to the City Clerk or to A. W. Brock of the Cemetery Board.

NEW PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

REPUBLIC INAUGURATES ZONE SYSTEM FOR ITS NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION.

Important plans for maintaining the national distribution of Republic Trucks and extending the scope of Republic "Unequaled Service" are embodied in the recent adoption of the zone system of merchandising by the Republic Truck Sales Corporation, of Alma, Michigan. In an interview granted local press representatives today, Colonel Frank E. Smith, President of the Company said:

"The very rapid growth of the Republic Sales Organization and the spotting of the Country with Service and Associate Dealers, has made it necessary for us to divide the Country into five divisions and to segregate these divisions by zones, the zones by States and the States by districts. This arrangement, as now effected, assures proper supervision, and enables the Factory to maintain intimate contact with its Branches, Distributors, Associate Dealers and Service Dealers.

"The five divisions into which the Country is divided include the Atlantic Coast, or Eastern Division, Southern Division, Middle West Division, Western Central Division, and Pacific Coast Division.

"The Eastern and Southern Zones are now under the direction of Mr. H. N. Leonard, the Middle West and Western Central Zones under the direction of Mr. W. B. Hamby, and the Pacific Coast Zone under the direction of George E. Clarke.

"The Zone Managers in these divisions, report direct to the Division Supervisors, and are themselves in charge of the business in their respective zones and direct the operations of the Branch House, Distributor, Associate Dealer and Service Dealer organizations in their respective territories.

"Service Dealer representatives are being rapidly established throughout the United States, the principal object being points of contact with the buying Public and assurance to every Republic owner of adequate service attention, no matter how remote his location may be from the larger centers of activity.

"The response that we are getting from our Dealer Organization, and also our owners, is very gratifying, and justifies the Republic Sales and Service policy, and results have been reflected in an increased volume of sales, which each month since January have shown a fifty per cent increase over the prior month."

VESTABURG GIRL MARRIED

Vivian E. Priest of Ionia, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Priest of Ionia County and Miss Clara B. Borton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Borton of Vestaburg, were quietly united in marriage Saturday noon, April 22, at the home of Rev. and Mrs. J. D. Tanner of Vestaburg by Rev. Tanner in the presence of the brides sister, Mrs. Lucy Freeman, and Mrs. Hattie Tanner.

Mr. and Mrs. Priest will go to Ionia to reside. Mr. Priest having a position at that place.

Mrs. Priest was raised at Vestaburg and attended the Vestaburg high school. She has many friends in Vestaburg and vicinity who extend congratulations and wish them a long and happy married life.

Sawkins Company Moving This Week

The Sawkins Piano Company, which for many years has been located in the Holiday block on East Superior street, is moving this week to its new home in the Gibbs block, still further east on Superior street.

The new location, which has been in the process of remodeling and re-decorating for the past few weeks, will give the piano and Victrola store a much better location for its business than the former place. It is expected that the entire stock will be in the new location before this coming Monday.

Immediately after the Sawkins company vacates the building the Alma News Company will move from the Gibbs block on South Woodworth to the Holiday block, which the management believes will furnish a far better location for its newspaper and magazine business and it will put the business almost in the heart of the business section of the city.

IS HONOR STUDENT

Word has come from Northwestern University of Evanston, Illinois, of a special honor conferred upon Y. B. Stitt of Alma, who is a member of the Sophomore class of the Engineering School of that university. Each year at this time Director John F. Hayford of Northwestern University School of Engineering publishes an Honor List of students who during their entire work at the university have maintained an average of 80 degrees or better. That is, after the student registers at Northwestern, his grades are carefully recorded and, no matter whether he be a freshman or a senior, if his standing is above 80, he appears on the honor roll. Mr. Stitt's name is on this year's roll. The list this year contained only thirty-six names.

CONNOR CO. TO BUILD HERE

OWOSSO ICE CREAM CONCERN WILL ERECT STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTING PLANT.

The Connor Ice Cream Company of Owosso broke ground yesterday for a modern storage and distributing plant in this city, which will be erected on the ground near the Cleveland Grocery in the eastern part of the city.

The building will be 82 feet in length and 32 feet in width. The foundations will be on concrete, and the walls of hollow tile, with a front of brick construction. The floors will be of re-inforced concrete. Modern equipment will be installed throughout the plant.

The plant will be used entirely for storage and distribution, the company feeling a need for getting in closer touch with its trade in this part of the state where it is doing a large and increasing business. Alma offers a fine distributing point for the company, which is one of the big reasons as to the decision to locate the plant in Alma.

Mr. W. A. McDonald, a representative of the company, who was in the city yesterday, stated that it was expected that the plant would be ready for use within the next sixty days.

A New Cemetery Ordinance Filed

A new cemetery ordinance for the government of Riverside Cemetery was filed with the city commission Tuesday evening and will come up for its first reading next Tuesday night. It is an interesting document and in its 25 sections makes some noteworthy provisions for the care of the present and any future city cemeteries.

One of the provisions of the ordinance, if adopted by the city commission, will provide for the levying of an amount set by the cemetery board for the upkeep of the lots there and to provide for the payment of this amount.

It will also provide for a superintendent of the cemetery, to be named by the cemetery board who will have all of the powers of a policeman at the cemetery, in addition to the ordinary powers of the superintendent.

It contains numerous other provisions relative to burial, etc., which will be of interest to lot owners in Riverside.

The Record can do your Job Printing—Call or telephone.

BURT RESIGNS AS COMMANDER OF THE LEGION

EXECUTIVE HEAD OF GEORGE
W. MYERS POST NO. 132 TENDERED RESIGNATION.

C. R. Robinson New Post Leader

At the regular meeting of the George W. Myers Post No. 132, American Legion of this city, held last Thursday evening, at the Legion rooms in the City Hall, L. D. Burt, post commandant, tendered his resignation to the post and after it was accepted Chester R. Robinson, vice commandant, was elevated to the place vacated by Burt.

The resignation of Mr. Burt, as commandant of the post, was made because of the fact that he felt that he did not have the time that should be devoted to the executive office of the post. Several short talks were made at the meeting by a number of the members, all of which expressed a deep regret that Mr. Burt should find it necessary to retire from the office of post commandant. When the matter of a successor was put under discussion there was a general feeling that the vice commandant should have the office, and when a motion to this effect was made Mr. Robinson was unanimously elected.

At this meeting the Legionnaires voted in favor of holding a joint meeting this evening with the Women's Auxiliary. A card party will be one of the features of the meeting tonight. All members of the Legion and the Women's Auxiliary are invited to attend.

It was stated at the meeting that Manager Miller of the Strand theatre will co-operate with the Post in putting on some shows in the near future, and a motion was voted to begin the series of entertainments at the Strand on May 2 and 3. Commander Robinson is working on the committees who are to handle the ticket sale for the functions.

FIFTY YEARS WEDDED LIFE

MR. AND MRS. J. M. WHEATON OBSERVED GOLDEN WEDDING AT HOME HERE MONDAY.

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Wheaton, residing on West Center street, observed their golden wedding anniversary at their home Monday, and enjoyed the day with about 75 relatives from Alma and other Michigan cities, who journeyed to their home to extend congratulations and to wish them many more years of married life.

The Wheaton home was gayly decorated for the occasion with Easter lilies, ferns and palms, which added greatly in making the home cozy and attractive for the anniversary.

Mrs. Ruth Rockwell, Arlene Ogden, Belle and Marion Williams served a fine two course dinner at 6:00 o'clock Monday evening to the immediate relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Wheaton, who were honor guests at the dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. Wheaton have been residents for the past twenty years, moving to this city from a farm, where they had lived for a period of 21 years. Their two sons, Ralph and Ray, are both engaged in business in this city.

PLAN FOR MOTHERS' DAY

A committee of young men at the E. Superior Christian Church is arranging to convey many mothers who could not attend otherwise, in autos. Telephone 868 Black if you know of a shut-in mother who would like to attend church on Mothers' day, May 14. Four plants will be awarded to mothers attending, one to the oldest mother, one to the youngest mother, one to the oldest son or daughter (both must be present) and one to the mother of the youngest child (the baby need not attend.)

Buy all kinds of electrical conveniences, at a greatly reduced price of the Alma Electric & Battery Co. this week—advertisement

Lewis Competes in District Contest

Phil Lewis, who successively won first honors in the local High School oratorical contest and in the sub-district contest, with his oration, "The Hope of the World," will compete for honors in the district contest at Howell, Friday evening, April 28th.

Since the winning of the sub-district contest at Owosso earlier in the month, Lewis has been working consistently for the district contest under the direction of Lyle Barnhart, of the high school faculty, who has had a wide experience in public speaking obtained while at Alma College, and it is expected that the Alma lad will show a big improvement in his delivery at Howell Friday evening and hopes are being held that the lad will be returned a winner.

Lewis will face much harder opposition at Howell than he did in the sub-district contest, as he will compete against the winners of the various sub-districts, that go to make up the district, which includes Detroit, Flint, Lansing, Ann Arbor and Jackson schools. There will be four contestants in the Friday evening event.

DIED AT PETOSKEY

Mrs. Derwin Ely, a former resident of this city, died at her home in Petoskey on April 19, and the body was later brought to Alma for burial in the family lot in Riverside cemetery.

Mrs. Ely was a pioneer resident of this city having come to Alma in 1855, being among the very first of the settlers here. Following the death of her husband in November of 1897, she went to Petoskey, where she had since that time resided with her son, Floyd. She will be remembered by a large number of the older residents of the city.

PLEA MADE FOR SALVATION ARMY

ROSS, STATE WORKER, TELLS C. OF C. MEMBERS NEEDS OF THE ARMY.

At the meeting and luncheon of the Alma Chamber of Commerce held yesterday noon, Mr. Rolfe, a state worker for the Salvation Army in the coming "home service appeal" of the organization which is to be held from May 5 to 12, told of some of the work that the Army is doing.

The record of the Salvation Army in war is no different from the record that the Army had been making during the previous thirty-five years, or which it has made since the war. The aim of the Salvation Army he said is to give services where the need is.

He said that the Salvation Army has sixteen different departments, and spoke briefly of the work of some of these such as the rescue home, the industrial home, the prison work, free clinics and the fresh air camps.

He then told of some of the things that had been done by the Alma Army during the past year and in closing stated that the Army believes in service to God through service to man.

He was followed by W. A. McDonald, a representative of the Connor Ice Cream Company of Owosso, who told of the efforts of the company to insure pure ice cream and the value of ice cream as a food, comparing its food values with other foods. By use of the stereopticon he gave views of various phases of the work at the Owosso and Ovid plants, etc.

Solos were rendered at the luncheon by Mrs. H. S. Babcock with Mrs. J. W. Kelder at the piano, and by Cadet Rosy of the Salvation Army.

Charles R. Murphy, who acted as chairman for the meeting announced that Col. Frank E. Smith, president and general manager of The Republic Motor Truck Company Inc., would be the speaker for next week Wednesday. The following Wednesday the Toledo wholesalers will visit Alma and on May 17 Mr. Harris, a well known Grand Rapids manufacturer, will speak before the members of the organization.

SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

There will be a special meeting of the city commission Friday evening, April 28, at which time the hearing of objections to the paving on North Woodworth avenue, Downey street and West End street will be heard. It is expected that this session of the commission will prove one of the most interesting of any held so far this year.

DECREE IS VINDICATION FOR CITY OFFICIALS IN FAMOUS PURCELL-ALMA WATER SUIT

Well Machinery, Located by The Record, and Replevined
by the City of Alma, is Ordered to be Sold
at Auction in Near Future.

JUDGMENT OF MANAGER REYNOLDS SUSTAINED THROUGHOUT THE CASE

On Monday, April 24, E. J. Moinet signed a decree in the case of the City of Alma against A. R. Purcell, Jackson well contractor, whereby the city is declared a lien upon the well digging machinery which is now in the possession of the city for breach of contract on the part of the Jackson man in the construction of wells under contract dated April 30, 1918. Judge Moinet also rendered a judgment for the city against Purcell for \$26,046.00 and directed that the well digging machinery in the possession of the city be sold and the proceeds applied upon the amount found due the city and a judgment entered for any deficiency.

Under the contract, which the city entered into with A. R. Purcell the latter guaranteed that in consideration of the payment of \$40,000 by the City of Alma he would furnish the city with a flow of 2,000 gallons of water per minute under certain tests when the wells were constructed and pumped in unison for a continuous period of a year. Under the contract the tests were to be made by Purcell upon notice to the city that the city might have representatives present and be satisfied that the guaranty of 2,000 gallons of water per minute called for in the contract had been met.

Purcell collected from the city a total of \$36,000 in money of the \$40,000 that he was to receive. He furnished not to exceed 600 gallons of water per minute from the wells that he constructed, when they were tested in unison. By reason thereof the city held that it was entitled to the return of \$24,000 of the money that Purcell received, which with the interest, a total of \$26,046.00, makes up the \$26,046.00 which the decree signed by Judge Moinet awarded to the City.

The law requires that security be taken by the City for the performance of the contract, but the only security that was taken was the well digging machinery used in the work here, and which is probably not valued at over \$2,000.

Under the contract the title of the well digging machinery was to be with the city pending the faithful performance of the contract by the Jackson man. When he concluded his work the machinery was moved to another job in another city. When the city tested the wells and found that Purcell had not given the amount of water that he contracted to supply efforts were made to locate the machinery. Purcell was using well digging machinery at St. Louis at the time, but it was difficult to ascertain whether or not this machinery was the same as that used on the work here.

Representatives of The Record went to St. Louis and while talking with Purcell there one of them injected the remark in the conversation that the well digger there looked to be larger than the one used at Alma. Purcell replied that it was the same machine. The following day the City replevined the machinery.

Shortly after, the replevin case went into Circuit Court, the city winning in this court over the contractor, who appealed to the Michigan Supreme Court. The higher court upheld the finding of Judge Moinet in Circuit Court, and the City then went after the damages against Purcell, as the replevin case settled thoroughly that the contract had not been complied with.

The story of how Purcell, not an educated man by any means, but a man with considerable cleverness and shrewdness, was able to secure a contract with the city without proper security, and how he apparently milked the city in obtaining the sum of \$36,000 of the \$40,000 he was to have received under the contract, although he furnished less than 600 gallons of water per minute, forms a tale which has not yet been entirely revealed to the people of the City of Alma, who voted the bond issue, which furnished the money that Purcell secured.

It still remains to be seen whether or not the \$26,000.00 damage can be collected from Purcell. Present information is that he will not pay the judgment. The City is certain, right now, of only the amount that can be secured from the sale of the well digging machinery, which was uncovered by The Record. The entire matter is in the hands of William A. Bahlke, city attorney, who declares that it is his purpose to pursue the

Knights Templar Had Big Night

The banquet and ball given by the Knights Templar Friday evening at Ithaca was well attended. A reception and dinner was given at the Methodist church where banquet tables were decorated with dark red carnations in vases, also dark red candles were used and tiny bright lined nut receptacles were at each place.

The three course dinner was served by the south division of the Methodist Aid Society. Charles G. Graham was master of ceremonies. He called upon Rev. L. L. Dewey of the Methodist church and Rev. William Roberts of the Presbyterian church for toasts after which the company went to the Masonic temple where the following program was given: A piano solo by Mrs. Paul Kernen, Mrs. Fred Brown, reading; Mrs. Bellaway and Mrs. C. E. Burt, a pianologue. Two little girls, Jane Archer and Marybeth McKenzie, entertained the company with a song and dance and Miss Charlotte Hamilton gave a whistling solo. Circuit Judge E. J. Moinet of St. Johns gave a brief talk and Mrs. Joseph McKenzie gave a group of songs. Dancing was then enjoyed at the armory as was the platoon drill by the Sir Knights. Music was furnished by Marks orchestra of Saginaw. A large number of Masons from Alma attended the annual event of the Knight Templars.

Alvin and H. A. Blair of Middleton were in the city Tuesday on business.